

Together, we're building the future of Norfolk – Script of Budget 2014 video



With your input, staff and City Council established six priorities designed not to just balance a budget, but to grow a city full of promise for all of us. The priorities:

1. Accessibility, Mobility and Connectivity
2. Economic vitality and Workforce development
3. Environmental sustainability
4. Lifelong learning
5. Safe, Healthy and Inclusive communities
6. Well-managed government, the building block for all of the other priorities.

Together, we envision Norfolk to be a vibrant, growing, competitive city that is a great place to live, learn, work, and play.

We heard from you that the foundation of such a city is a government that is data-driven, effective, efficient, and inclusive – we call this a well-managed government.

As we've worked toward becoming a well-managed government, the results are tangible and exciting in the areas of service, infrastructure, and quality of life. In fact, Norfolk has earned international recognition in the area of city management and the highest honor in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

We've taken our cues from you. We heard that you wanted to be more engaged so we introduced the Neighbors Building Neighborhoods initiative which empowers and encourages neighbors to work together to position their neighborhood as a great place to live.

We also created IMPACT – a responsive, customer-focused call center that offers data-driven solutions based on your request for better response and service.

We heard your concern for the community when libraries and recreation opportunities were limited so we've expanded hours for both.

We heard that supporting schools is important to you so we've increased our funding commitment to schools and developed a plan to address aging school buildings. Because the success of our schools requires more than money, we've also provided each city employee with 4 hours of volunteer leave to use exclusively at our schools.

Despite our successes, real estate values have declined. Since real estate is the basis for our single largest revenue source, when our property values decline it becomes more difficult for the city to provide services at the same level as it did before. While our struggle with real estate values is common among cities nationwide, we have an uncommon advantage – you!

With your help, we hope to focus on two priorities this year: lifelong learning and economic vitality. Focusing on these priorities over the next year will help propel our city forward economically.

Through our conversation, we hope to hear your solutions to improving property values which will help our city grow. We also want to hear solutions for diversifying our economy so that we are less dependent on real estate revenue. We want to bring more jobs to the city and have workers that live in the city who are ready to fill those jobs. We want your help in focusing on lifelong learning opportunities that will provide our residents with the necessary skills to support a prosperous economy.

Now is your opportunity to take the first step towards improving your community for next year and beyond. Be part of Norfolk's well managed government. Be part of the fiscal year 2014 budget building process...building together towards a bright future in your city by the bay.

Take a moment to let us know your priorities for the upcoming city budget and how you may want to contribute to building a better neighborhood. Visit Norfolk.gov and click on Budget2014 for more information today.